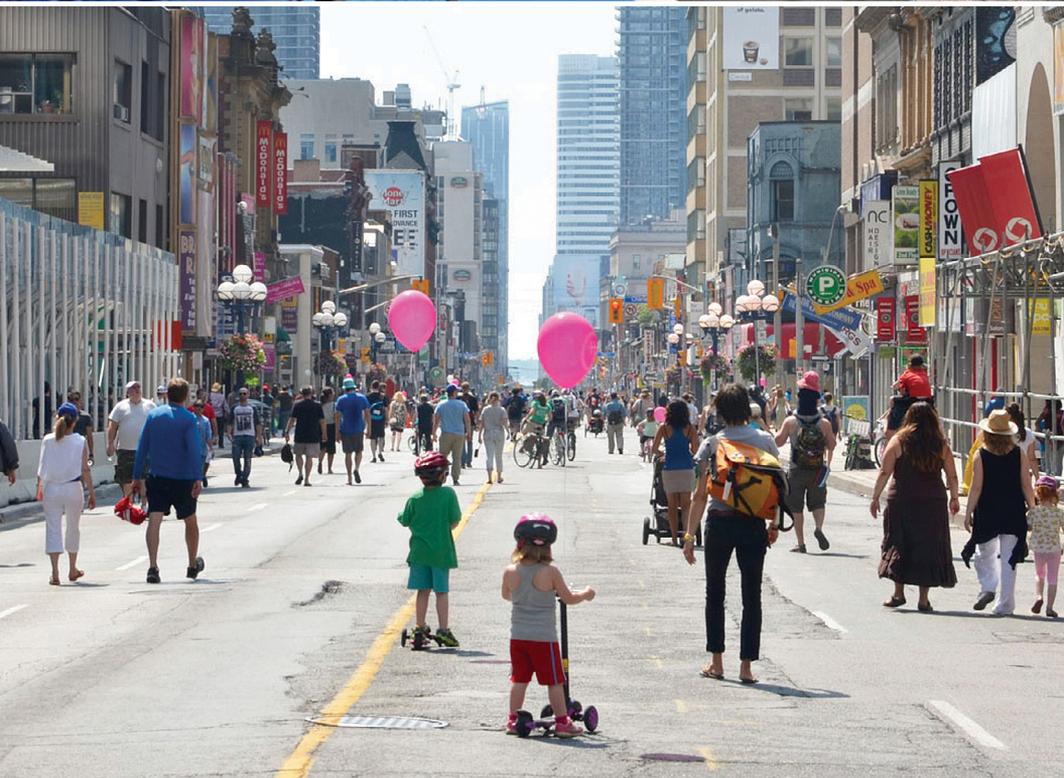


Reimagining the Civic Commons



Civic Commons Learning Journey: Toronto

July 22-25, 2018



Welcome

Welcome to Civic Commons Learning Journey: Toronto.

One of the best ways to learn is to see things in person and talk with the instigators who are bringing about change in their own communities. This Civic Commons learning journey offers exactly that.

We are so pleased to have you participate in this exploration of Toronto.

Thanks to many local hosts, over the next few days you'll have the opportunity to experience public places and neighborhoods that bring civic engagement and socioeconomic mixing to life. You will explore the city by foot, bike and bus, and have frank conversations with local leaders on the work they are pursuing, what works and what doesn't.

Leaders from many sectors including local government, design, urban planning and environmental sustainability, alongside community residents will offer the context, successes and challenges they have faced in building and sustaining public places that foster communities where everyone has a stake and everyone belongs.

Along with active touring, we will also take time to reflect and share how what we are experiencing may influence our work at home.

And throughout you'll have a chance to appreciate local cuisine and reconnect with colleagues from other demonstration cities.

Come with a curious mind, ready for candid conversations. And leave inspired with new insights for your own work.

We look forward to learning together.



Bridget Marquis
Director, Civic Commons Learning Network



Ryan O'Connor
Director of Programs, 8 80 Cities

Itinerary

Sunday, July 22

6:45 p.m.	Meet in lobby of Pantages Hotel	200 Victoria Street
7 - 8:30 p.m.	Opening Reception at Hawthorne	60 Richmond Street E
8:30 p.m.	Walk back to Pantages Hotel	200 Victoria Street

Monday, July 23

8 - 8:30 a.m.	Breakfast at Pantages Hotel	200 Victoria Street
8:30 - 8:45 a.m.	Welcome	Pantages Hotel, Room: Drama 7 200 Victoria Street
8:45 - 9:45 a.m.	Toronto's Evolution and Future with Jennifer Keesmaat	Pantages Hotel, Room: Drama 7 200 Victoria Street
10 a.m.	Meet in lobby of Pantages Hotel	Pantages Hotel 200 Victoria Street
10:15 - 11:15 a.m.	Dufferin Grove Park with Jutta Mason	875 Dufferin Park Avenue
11:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.	Scadding Court Community Centre with Alina Chatterjee and Kevin Lee	707 Dundas Street W
1 - 2 p.m.	Lunch at Market 707	707 Dundas Street W
2 - 3:30 p.m.	Regent Park with Sureya Ibrahim	555 Dundas Street E
3:30 - 5 p.m.	Free exploration	
5:30 p.m.	Meet in lobby of Pantages Hotel	200 Victoria Street
6 p.m.	Rooftop Dinner	401 Richmond Street
8:30 p.m.	Walk back to Pantages Hotel	200 Victoria Street

Tuesday, July 24

7:45 - 8:15 a.m.	Breakfast at Pantages Hotel	200 Victoria Street
8:15 a.m.	Meet in lobby of Pantages Hotel	200 Victoria Street
9 - 10:30 a.m.	Thornccliffe Park with Sabina Ali	48 Thornccliffe Park Drive
11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	The Bentway with Ken Greenberg and Ilana Altman	250 Fort York Boulevard
12:30 - 1:30 p.m.	Lunch in Garrison Common	250 Fort York Boulevard
2 - 3 p.m.	Fort York Library with Pam Ryan and Gregory McCormick	190 Fort York Boulevard
3:30 p.m. -	Free exploration	
3:30 - 4:30 pm	Sidewalk Toronto with Lauren Skelly (optional tour)	307 Lake Shore Blvd E

Wednesday, July 25

7:30 - 8 a.m.	Breakfast at Pantages Hotel	200 Victoria Street
7:45 a.m.	Bike riders meet in lobby of Pantages Hotel	200 Victoria Street
8 - 9 a.m.	Bike ride to Evergreen Brick Works	550 Bayview Avenue
8:30 a.m.	Non-bike riders meet in lobby of Pantages Hotel	200 Victoria Street
9 - 10:15 a.m.	Evergreen Brick Works with Geoff Cape, Robert Plitt and team	550 Bayview Avenue
10:15 - 11 a.m.	Bringing it Home: Discussion Session with 8 80 Cities	550 Bayview Avenue
11 - 11:30 a.m.	Break	550 Bayview Avenue
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	International Exchange: Reimagining the Civic Commons & Future Cities Canada	550 Bayview Avenue
12:30 - 2 p.m.	Lunch and Conversation with Future Cities Canada	550 Bayview Avenue
2 p.m.	Depart for airport or train station	

Important Information

What to Wear

The attire for the trip is business casual, with the emphasis on casual. Summers in Toronto are lovely with an average high of 80 degrees, but can be humid at times. We'll be out and about throughout the trip, so feel free to wear nice shorts or jeans and definitely your favorite walking shoes. You may want a light jacket for evenings and an umbrella just in case we hit a shower.

Currency

The exchange rate for currency is one Canadian dollar equals .77 U.S. dollar.

Don't Forget

To bring your passport
To update your mobile phone plan

Contacts

Bridget Marquis

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Amanda O'Rourke

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Social Media

When you share insights and images on social media from our explorations, please tag **@CivicCommonsUS** and **@880CitiesOrg** and use hashtag **#CivicCommonsUS**.



Our Local Hosts



Sabina Ali • Thorncliffe Park Women's Committee

Sabina Ali is the chair and one of the founding members of Thorncliffe Park Women's Committee. She is engaged in empowering and building the capacity of residents, especially women and connecting the community with the rest of Toronto. She works to strengthen women's economic prosperity by providing them the opportunity to develop their entrepreneurial and business skills in a nurturing, engaging and caring environment. She has an extensive background in program management, volunteer engagement, and community building and sits on various committees. In 2014, the Globe and Mail named her one of "Ten Torontonians Who Got Things Done in 2014." She is also a recipient of Phenomenal Woman Award of the Centre of Community Learning and Development. That same year she also received the Jane Jacobs Prize which is awarded to Torontonians who embody a passion for city building. She is a member of the Toronto Food Policy Council.



Ilana Altman • The Bentway

Ilana Altman is a cultural planner and designer who has a background in art and architecture. In her role as Director of Programming she works with the community to implement innovative and engaging programming, revealing new possibilities for public space. Prior to joining The Bentway team, Ilana worked for a number of notable design firms including Studio Daniel Libeskind and Diller Scofidio + Renfro in New York and KPMB Architects in Toronto. She has led the curation and design of exhibitions and installations at the SFMOMA, the Museum of Arts and Design in New York, and the Art Gallery of Ontario. Additionally, she has worked closely with artists to realize public art installations for Toronto's Nuit Blanche. In 2014 Ilana founded the Artful City, a Toronto collective that aims to advance public art research, policies, and imaginations. Additionally, Ilana founded and served as the Executive Director of the Pavilion Project from 2015-2017.



Geoff Cape • Evergreen

As founder and CEO, Geoff oversees the idea development and relationship building that advances Evergreen's mission to create flourishing cities. Working with the Board of Directors and Executive Team, he sets overall strategic direction, goals, and priorities while maintaining financial health and program quality. Geoff comes to his work with a forward-looking systems approach, developing innovative plans that move the levers of urban sustainability, inclusivity, and resilience across Canada. Geoff is an Officer of the Order of Canada, a recipient of Queen Elizabeth II's Golden Jubilee Medal, a fellow of the Rockefeller Foundation, a board member of Sustainable Development Technology Canada, and the recipient of a number of awards related to social innovation and sustainability. He holds a BA from Queen's University and a Master of Management from McGill University.



Isabel Cascante • Evergreen

Isabel directs a program portfolio focused on Evergreen's city building projects, including the Housing Action Lab, 100In-1Day, and Future Cities Canada. Her work is driven by a belief in the importance of broad-based coalitions, and her projects work to integrate the strengths and perspectives of all their stakeholders. Isabel is passionate about building networks and working relationships with experts and like-minded city builders, drawing on their knowledge and experience to help drive Evergreen's mission. Isabel has over 15 years of teaching, facilitation and management experience in non-profit, private sector, and post-secondary education contexts. She holds BEd from the University of Regina, a BA and MA from the University of Calgary, and a PhD in literature and cultural studies from the University of Toronto.

Our Local Hosts

Alina Chatterjee • Scadding Court Community Centre

Alina is Senior Director of Redevelopment and Innovations at Scadding Court Community Centre in Toronto. She has extensive experience in the community sector with a strong background in equity work, fundraising and program development. Some of her past work includes senior management positions with United Way Toronto and York Region, Toronto Community Housing, the City of Toronto, and she also served as Executive Assistant to City Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam. While at Toronto Community Housing, Alina managed the housing authority's participatory budgeting process, the first housing process in North America. With a BA from the University of Toronto in international relations, she has been a volunteer member of several non-profit Boards, from Social Planning Toronto, Council of Agencies Serving South Asians to Urban Alliance on Race Relations. Alina currently sits on the board of the Participatory Budgeting Project in New York City, and serves as Secretary of the Board.



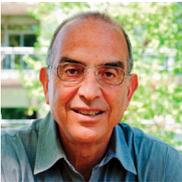
Cam Collyer • Evergreen

Cam is the driver behind Evergreen's efforts to connect children, nature, and the built world. His work gives young people access to the nurturing natural environments and play opportunities that are a key part of flourishing cities. Cam developed Evergreen's school ground greening program into an international leader in its field and stands as one of Canada's foremost thought leaders in the fields of outdoor education and school ground design. He has built partnerships with numerous Canadian school boards and is the architect of Evergreen's network of school ground design specialists, ensuring that Evergreen's programs integrate the field's leading innovations. He is a co-founder of the International School Ground Alliance and sits on the board of directors of Green Teacher magazine and Green Schoolyards America. Cam holds a BA in Environmental Studies from Trent University and BEd from Queen's University.



Eti Greenberg • Greenberg Consultants

Eti is very active in community affairs in Toronto. She is part of Greenberg Consultants and an active Board Member of 8 80 Cities and Park People and a founding member on the Advisory Board of the newly formed organization Waterfront for All. She is also involved in the Wellington Place Neighbourhood Association. She teaches Tai Chi at the Waterfront Community Centre and to a seniors group at the Hazelton Manor and in Victoria Memorial Square. Formerly she was an Assistant to Ward 20 City Councillors Adam Vaughan and Joe Cressy.



Ken Greenberg • Greenberg Consultants

Ken Greenberg is an architect, urban designer, teacher, writer, former Director of Urban Design and Architecture for the City of Toronto and Principal of Greenberg Consultants. For over three decades he has played a pivotal role on public and private assignments in urban settings throughout North America and Europe, focusing on the rejuvenation of downtowns, waterfronts, neighborhoods and on campus master planning, regional growth management, and new community planning. He is the recipient of the 2010 American Institute of Architects Thomas Jefferson Award for public design excellence and the author of *Walking Home: the Life and Lessons of a City Builder* published by Random House.

Our Local Hosts



Sureya Ibrahim • Toronto Centre for Community Learning & Development

Sureya Ibrahim is the Community Relation Specialist-Regent Park Social at the Centre for Community Learning & Development. She was born in the city of Harar, Ethiopia. Sureya came to Canada when she was about 17, and moved to Regent Park shortly afterwards. She has lived in Regent Park ever since, volunteering, studying, and working in the community. She was honoured with a 2014 Woman Who Inspire from the Canadian Council of Muslim Women, a 2014 Distinguished Service Award from Muslim Association of Canada, the 2014 Phenomenal Woman award, the 2015 Jane Jacobs Prize, and was a Torch bearer for the 2015 Panam games. She has been involved in many community development projects, including the Regent Park Catering Collective, which has catered for more than 500 events and created income-generating opportunities for 79 Regent Park residents. Sureya has been featured in media several times, including CBC Radio, CBC Television and The New York Times. She loves her work and the residents of Regent Park continue to inspire and motivate her.



Jennifer Keesmaat • Creative Housing

Jennifer is an internationally recognized awarding winning urban planner, an entrepreneur, and the former Chief Planner of the City of Toronto. She is the recently named CEO of Creative Housing, a national organization that will develop, build and operate affordable rental housing at scale across Canada. An Emeritus Distinguished Visitor in Residence at the University of Toronto, Jennifer is the urban affairs contributor to Maclean's magazine, and is the CBC's urban affairs specialist. Jennifer's TED talks include Walk to School, Own Your City, and Taxes, Democracy and our Shared Interest. Her widely acclaimed podcast can be found at invisiblecitypodcast.com.



Kevin Lee • Scadding Court Community Centre

Kevin Lee has been Executive Director at Scadding Court Community Centre for 24 years. Prior to Scadding Court, Kevin was the Executive Director at University Settlement Recreation Centre and held positions at Stephens Community House from Youth Programs Co-coordinator to Assistant Executive Director. He has worked for over 35 years in the non-profit sector. Kevin Lee's volunteer work includes many years of service as a member of City of Toronto's Service Equity Committee and Co-Chair of the Toronto Mayor's Committee and Community and Race Relations. In 2007, Kevin was a recipient of the City of Toronto Access Equity and Human Rights Award, the William P. Hubbard Award for Race Relations. Kevin's volunteer efforts also benefited CAMH, George Brown College Community Business Centre, Kensington Bellwoods Community Legal Clinic, and Doctors, Western and Mount Sinai hospitals. He was also Chair of Housing Connections and served on other community boards. Kevin is also a recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal.



Jutta Mason • Dufferin Grove Park

The soul behind the revitalization of Dufferin Grove Park, Jutta is the yeast that spawned the community bread oven that has been the hallmark of community revitalization for the Dufferin Grove Park community. Jutta Mason has a profound belief in the value of public space and 'the commons' in making neighbourhoods work. She is one of two recipients of the 2001 Jane Jacobs Prizes (the other is David Walsh). Born in Germany in 1947, Jutta emigrated to Canada as a child in 1956. She originally trained as a nurse. Her interests - both professionally and as a volunteer - have always revolved around communities, and the way in which the people who inhabit them find ways to care for each other. In the 70's she arrived in Toronto, by way of Peterborough, Hailebury and Vancouver. She formed Friends of Dufferin Grove Park which now boasts a community bread oven, a skating rink, clubhouse and hosts a wide range of community activities, both formally organized and spontaneous. Jutta is also the founder of the Centre for Local Research into Public Space.

Our Local Hosts



Gregory McCormick • Toronto Public Library

Gregory McCormick is the Manager of Cultural and Special Event Programming Toronto Public Library, overseeing the cultural and literary programming for the library. From 2010 to 2016, he was the Director of Programming for the Blue Metropolis Montreal International Literary Festival. Originally from the Pacific NW of the USA, Gregory has an MA from the Université de Montréal in English and Comparative Literature.



Ryan O'Connor • 8 80 Cities

Ryan O'Connor is an urban planner with a special focus on the public realm and active transportation. At 8 80 Cities, Ryan leads inclusive and creative community engagement strategies and works with local partners to launch low-cost, high-impact urban projects. Through this work, Ryan is committed to ensuring everyone participates in the creation of safe and inclusive public spaces and mobility networks in their cities. He holds a degree in community and regional planning from the University of British Columbia.



Amanda O'Rourke • 8 80 Cities

Amanda has been with 8 80 Cities since the beginning in 2007. She was a key architect of the 8 80 concept, and has held several positions within the organization. She has been a key driving force in the development and growth of 8 80 Cities and has worked on numerous projects related to parks, public spaces, and sustainable transportation in North America, Europe, Mexico, and Australia. Amanda holds a Master's of Science in Planning from the University of Toronto, and a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Biology from Queen's University. She is also currently Co-Chair of the Children, Play, and Nature Committee for World Urban Parks. She loves being a momma to three small kids, is an eternal optimist, and is passionate about transforming cities into great places for all people.



Robert Plitt • Evergreen

Robert champions Evergreen's efforts to create a Canada-wide network of academics, foundations, governments, and corporations focused on building flourishing future cities. He leads Evergreen's work with Future Cities Canada and develops novel partnerships and innovations in the key fields of infrastructure, capital, governance, and civic engagement. He is a passionate believer in innovation through collaboration, so Robert builds partnerships that help Evergreen better make flourishing cities. Robert has spent two decades working on civic asset redevelopment projects in Toronto, such as Wychwood Barns, the Distillery District, and Evergreen Brick Works, and in collective action efforts to make cities better. He holds a Master of Fine Arts from the State Academy of Fine Arts in Amsterdam.



Marina Queirolo • Evergreen

Marina manages Evergreen's initiatives related to food policy, public markets, and hubs. She works to change the status quo of city systems, like food, to make them more just, equitable, and sustainable. Marina developed Evergreen's Food and Public Market Action Plan and created a suite of programs that promote food literacy, community development, local entrepreneurship, and place making. Marina has been a member of the Toronto Food Policy Council since 2013, is chair of the Council's Public Food Market Working Group, and has almost 15 years working in food systems and city building. In 2017, Marina received the Canada 150 Outstanding neighbour award by MP Carolyn Bennet and recently joined the global Placemaking Leadership Council (PPS). Marina has a BA from the University of Buenos Aires.



Pam Ryan • Toronto Public Library

Pam Ryan is the Director of Service Development and Innovation at Toronto Public Library. Her portfolio is responsible for planning and developing all public service programs and services delivered through TPL's online and in-branch networks.

Participant Biographies



Ajara Alghali • Detroit

Live6

ajara@live6detroit.org

Ajara Alghali is an avid daydreamer. As the Program Manager of Live6 Alliance, she uses her personal experience as an artist to curate programming reflective of neighborhood history and its unique characteristics. Born and raised in Detroit, she attended Wayne State University, for both her undergraduate and graduate degrees. Ajara, demonstrates leadership and ambition for developing strategies that increase sustainability of community based programs. She has proven success in strategic program planning, training outcomes and contract goals. When Ajara is not creating dynamic programs, she's traveling, teaching and performing Contemporary and West African dance, or being active on various community boards.



Alexa Bush • Detroit

City of Detroit

bushal@detroitmi.gov

Alexa Bush is Design Director of the East Region in the City of Detroit's Planning & Development Department, managing neighborhood planning, community development and landscape infrastructure projects. She is also the project lead for the Livernois/McNichols Plan, which includes the Fitzgerald Revitalization Project and Detroit's Reimagining the Civic Commons Grant Initiative. Alexa is a licensed landscape and project manager with experience in urban design and large-scale planning in cities and communities across the US. Alexa graduated summa cum laude in Visual and Environmental Studies from Harvard University and earned her Master's degree in Landscape Architecture at the University of Virginia.



Devon Buskin • Detroit

The Greening of Detroit

devon@greeningofdetroit.com

Devon Buskin is the Director of Workforce Development at Greening of Detroit. Since 2012, The Greening's Workforce Development Department has grown significantly. Under Devon's leadership, The Greenings' Adult Workforce Training Program is now a certified apprentice program, through the state of Michigan, and US Department of Labor. The workforce program has now expanded into The Detroit Conservation Corps. This expansion of workforce training will train and employ 2500 Detroit residents in green collar jobs. These jobs will allow Detroiters to work on projects in their own neighborhoods, and be part of the city's revitalization. This program has given local low-income and underemployed citizens a second chance to be successful and have a sustainable future.



Carol Coletta

Kresge Foundation

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Carol Coletta is Senior Fellow at the Kresge Foundation on loan to Memphis River Parks Partnership as President and CEO. Formerly, she served as Vice President of Community and National Initiatives at the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, and President of ArtPlace and CEOs for Cities.

Participant Biographies



Maurice Cox • Detroit

City of Detroit

cox@detroitmi.gov

Maurice Cox, Planning Director for the City of Detroit since 2015 is an urban designer, architectural educator and former mayor of the City of Charlottesville, VA. Before being selected by Mayor Mike Duggan to reorganize and lead Detroit's Planning Department, Cox served as Associate Dean for Community Engagement at Tulane University, School of Architecture, and as the Director of the Tulane City Center, a university-affiliated practice operating at the intersection of design, urban research and civic engagement throughout the New Orleans community. Cox has taught at Syracuse University, the University of Virginia and Harvard University's Graduate School of Design, where he was also a Loeb Fellow in 2004-2005. His experience merging architecture, politics and design education led to his being named one of "20 Masters of Design" in 2004 by Fast Company, and one of the Most Admired Design Educators in America in the annual ranking of Design Intelligence in 2013.



Tregg Duerson • Chicago

Rebuild Foundation

tregg@rebuild-foundation.org

Tregg is the Chief Operating Officer of the Rebuild Foundation. He is responsible for implementing the strategic and operational infrastructure to execute artist Theaster Gates' vision. Prior to joining Rebuild, Tregg spent a decade in the financial industry where he worked for JP Morgan, Goldman Sachs and Northern Trust. He received his bachelor's from the University of Notre Dame and MBA from Northwestern's Kellogg School of Management.



Erin Engelstad • Philadelphia

Fairmount Park Conservancy

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Erin Engelstad is Park Stewardship Manager at Fairmount Park Conservancy and has worked with the team since 2013. Erin helps to manage the Park Stewardship Network, including the organization and development of Park Friends Network meetings, tours, conferences and peer-to-peer learning for the park friend groups all across the city. Erin oversees the event and physical improvement grant process, resources that help resource and build the capacity of our park friend groups. Erin is also the lead organizer of the East Fairmount Park Coalition, a collaborative of over 40 community and institutional stakeholders that formed in 2013. The Coalition has multiple goals including information sharing, collaborating on projects and programs, and ensuring the park serve as a dynamic resource for the neighborhood. Erin also has experience as a committed park volunteer and served on the Friends of Clark Park board for nearly six years.



Katelyn Freil • Akron

Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition

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Katelyn Freil is the communications coordinator for the Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition, a nonprofit in Akron dedicated to developing the Ohio & Erie Canalway National Heritage Area and Towpath Trail. She also serves as co-marketing director for the Ohio & Erie Canalway Association, where her role is promoting tourism regionally and statewide. Katelyn graduated from The University of Akron with degrees in mass media and public relations, and a minor in environmental ethics. She is a recent alumna of the National Arts Strategies Creative Community Fellowship, having participated in the program during the 2016-2017 program.

Participant Biographies



Maria Fuhrmann • Memphis

City of Memphis

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Maria Fuhrmann oversees Grants and Partnerships for the City of Memphis, managing special projects and serving as Executive Team liaison and to the City's philanthropic, quasi-governmental, and community partners. Maria came to city government in 2006 as a Research Analyst for the Memphis City Council and previously served as Special Assistant to the Mayor for Research and Innovation. Maria is a graduate of the University of Memphis and has lived in her adopted hometown since 1991. Maria is passionate about leveraging Memphis' unique assets to create a vibrant and thriving urban core, encourage quality infill development in the inner city, and provide a range of safe, convenient, sustainable mobility choices.



Tom Fuller • Akron

Alpha Homes

tfuller@alphahomes.org

Tom Fuller is Executive Director of Alpha Homes, a non profit developer and manager of affordable housing with 2,400 units of housing developed. Tom has been employed by Alpha Homes since 1976 and under his leadership the organization has converted several historic structures to affordable housing. Alpha Homes provides supportive services at each of the developments and employs social workers to assist with connecting low-income residents with social services providers. Tom is married with five adult children and six grandchildren. He is a graduate of University of Akron with a bachelor's degree in sociology and a masters in urban studies.



David Gould • Philadelphia

Rebuild, City of Philadelphia

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David Gould is the Deputy Director of Community Engagement and Communications for the City of Philadelphia's Rebuild initiative, an initiative to invest hundreds of millions of dollars

to improve parks, recreation centers, and libraries across the city. David has been part of Rebuild since it was first conceived while in his previous role at the William Penn Foundation, which funded the planning process that resulted in Rebuild. In his current role, one of David's primary responsibilities is to ensure community members have meaningful opportunities participate in the process of determining what changes are made to their community facility.



Shamichael Hallman • Memphis

The Fourth Bluff

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Shamichael is currently working with the Memphis Reimagining the Civic Commons team, using civic assets to help transform the city of Memphis.



Christina Hodgkinson • Akron

Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority

chodgkinson@akronhousing.org

Christina M. Hodgkinson was appointed Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority's (AMHA) Director of Resident Services in 2014. The housing authority through various programs provides affordable housing to over 20,000 people in Summit County. In her current leadership position, Christina's role is to support the Executive Director and the mission of the Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority by overseeing the planning and operations of Resident Services and AMHA's non-profit entity Building for Tomorrow. Christina is committed to serving the residents of the City of Akron and Summit County. She is extremely active in elevating the housing authority's strategic goals that contribute to the preservation and expansion of affordable housing and improving the quality of life for low-income residents in the community.

Participant Biographies



Miriam Holzman-Lipsitz • Philadelphia

Free Library of Philadelphia

holzmanlm@freelibrary.org

Miriam Holzman-Lipsitz was the first community organizer to be brought on staff at the Free Library of Philadelphia three years ago. Prior to her work with the library, Miriam worked as a community organizer in both Detroit and Philadelphia. Much of her focus has been on education organizing with parents, teachers, and students. Having spent several years working at a community center, Miriam brings an understanding of the intersection between community organizing and public spaces.



Jonathan Hui • Detroit

The Kresge Foundation

jchui@kresge.org

Jonathan Hui is an associate program officer at The Kresge Foundation. He supports the Detroit Program's work in early childhood and neighborhood development. He joined the foundation in 2017. Previously he served as director of strategy and planning at the Education Achievement Authority of Michigan, where he was involved with leading talent recruitment, development/evaluation efforts, organizational strategic planning and systems design at the state-run school district. Jonathan started his career as a social studies teacher at Denby High School in Detroit, Michigan, as a Teach for America corps member and later led community initiatives on behalf of the school, where his work focused on the intersection of education and community development. He earned a bachelor's degree in political science and sociology from the University of Michigan and a master's degree in public policy from Harvard University.



Penelope Huston • Memphis

Downtown Memphis Commission

huston@downtownmemphis.com

Penelope Huston is the VP of Marketing, Communications & Events for the Downtown Memphis Commission, overseeing the organization's public engagement strategies. She is a native

Memphian, and spent her entire professional career building community and creating strategies to grow engagement.



Jeff Klein • Detroit

City of Detroit

kleinj@detroitmi.gov

Jeff Klein is a graduate of Michigan State University's landscape architecture program and is licensed landscape architect.

Jeff has over two decades of involvement with non-profits, community groups and resident collaboration through design, construction and consultation with a concentrated focus on urban agriculture, green stormwater infrastructure and park and public space design. He joined the City of Detroit's General Services Department in the summer of 2016 and is the Park Development Manager. Jeff views the landscape as a powerful tool for change that can promote social and environmental cohesion while transforming and healing land, people and communities.



Kyle Kutuchief • Akron

Knight Foundation

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In Akron, the birthplace of Knight Newspapers and the foundation, Kyle Kutuchief leads Knight's strategy focused on downtown and its surrounding neighborhoods through investments in talent, opportunity and engagement. Akron is also part of Reimagining the Civic Commons, a Knight-supported national initiative that seeks to counteract economic and social fragmentation by revitalizing and connecting public spaces. Previously, Kutuchief worked in higher education and was a part of two initiatives to strengthen regional collaboration. He has served on a number of nonprofit boards and acted as president of Torchbearers, a young professionals organization focused on leadership development and community service. Kutuchief earned his bachelor's in political science from The Ohio State University and a master's in public administration from The University of Akron.

Participant Biographies



Bridget Marquis

U3 Advisors

bmarquis@u3advisors.com | [@bamarquis](#)

Bridget Marquis is the project manager for Reimagining the Civic Commons, a national initiative supported by The JPB Foundation, Knight Foundation, The Kresge Foundation and The Rockefeller Foundation transforming public places to foster engagement, equity, environmental sustainability and economic development in our cities. She is director for the national Civic Commons Learning Network, providing coordinated learning, impact assessment and storytelling across the five demonstration cities. Previously, Bridget developed and executed grantmaking strategies for ArtPlace America, a public-private collaboration to accelerate creative placemaking in communities across the U.S. and served as program director for CEOs for Cities.



Mallory McClaire • Chicago

Space Fund

mmcclaire@space-fund.org

Mallory McClaire serves as Chief of Staff to Theaster Gates. She joined the Space Fund team after serving as Senior Associate Director of Speaker Series & Special Events at the University of Chicago Institute of Politics, where she produced nearly 400 events featuring leading and emerging thought leaders, politicians, policy experts and activists. Mallory's previous work includes Chicago's Office of Tourism and Culture where she assisted the Executive Director and the Chicago Neighborhood Tourism Project, a groundbreaking assessment of tourism assets throughout Chicago's 77 neighborhoods. Additional public programming experience includes work in Millennium Park, the Chicago Cultural Center and with the Mayor's Office of Special Events.



Patrick Morgan • Philadelphia

Knight Foundation

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Patrick Morgan is the Philadelphia Program Director for the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. He leads Knight's Philadelphia investment strategy working with local leaders and other community members exploring how reinvesting in public spaces can help to foster more informed and engaged communities.



Maria Munoz-Blanco • Memphis

City of Memphis

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María Muñoz-Blanco was appointed Director of the City of Memphis Parks & Neighborhoods Division in June 2016, where she oversees a city-wide system of 160 parks, 28 community centers, 17 aquatic facilities and 8 golf courses. Her career in public service spans two decades, in local and state government, including serving as Director of Cultural Affairs for the City of Dallas. She holds an M.A. in Art History degree from Rutgers University and a B.A. in Art from the University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez. Cuban born, she spent her childhood years in Madrid, Bogota and San Juan.

Participant Biographies



Dan Rice • Akron

Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition

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Daniel M. Rice is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition (OECC). OECC is the regional non-profit organization working for the conservation, development and interpretation of the natural, historical and recreational resources along the Ohio & Erie National Heritage Canalway from Cleveland to New Philadelphia, Ohio. Since 1994, Mr. Rice has worked with over 150 community partnerships and raised over \$50 million in development funds for the development of the 101-mile multi-use Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail and the Ohio & Erie Canalway National Heritage Area and received numerous regional and national awards.



Lynn Ross

Spirit for Change Consulting, LLC

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Lynn M. Ross, AICP is founder and principal of Spirit for Change Consulting, LLC. She works nationally, across sectors with organizations on a mission to advance equitable policies, practices and places including leading the Knight Foundation's engagement in the Reimagining the Civic Commons demonstration. Past leadership roles include: VP, Community and National Initiatives (CNI) at Knight Foundation; Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy Development in the Obama Administration's HUD; and ED of Urban Land Institute's Terwilliger Center for Housing. Lynn holds a Masters of Regional Planning from Cornell University and a B.S. in community and regional planning from Iowa State University.



Elisa Ruse-Esposito • Philadelphia

Philadelphia Parks and Recreation

Elisa.ruse-esposito@phila.gov

Elisa Ruse-Esposito is the Stewardship Manager for Philadelphia Parks and Recreation. After serving five years as Parks and Recreation's Farm Philly Program Manager, Elisa was tasked

with continuing the excellent work of the department's Stewardship Unit. This work engages volunteers throughout the Philadelphia Parks system to beautify and program neighborhood parks and natural areas. In partnership with Fairmount Park Conservancy the Parks Friends Network engages neighbors in making Philadelphia Parks beautiful and active spaces.



Chantel Rush • Detroit

The Kresge Foundation
cmrush@kresge.org

Chantel Rush is a program officer with The Kresge Foundation's American Cities Practice. Her grantmaking portfolio includes funding efforts to seed and scale innovative community development practices aimed at improving the lives of people with low incomes in America's cities. Her grantmaking work also supports pioneering research, thought leadership and convenings to expand urban policymaking and practice. She also stewards the foundation's place-based work in Memphis, Tennessee. Chantel joined the foundation in 2015, working as a special assistant to Kresge President and CEO Rip Rapson. Before joining Kresge, she served as senior analyst of global strategy and business development at Gap Inc. She started her career in management consulting, where her responsibilities included advising both corporate and private equity clients.



Jean-Pierre Soucy • Memphis

Memphis River Parks Partnership
jsoucy12@comcast.net

Jean-Pierre is the maintenance director for Memphis River Parks Partnership, where he has worked for over six years. He previously worked for the City of Memphis Public Works Division for 35 years.

Participant Biographies



Bronlynn Thurman • Akron

Knight Foundation & GAR Foundation

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Bronlynn Thurman joined Knight Foundation and GAR Foundation in 2016. As a Program Associate, she works to advance the two foundations' strategic priorities through the assessment and review of a grant applications, research, and community engagement. An Akron native, she is the Pecha Kucha Akron board secretary, on the City of Akron and United Way's Financial Empowerment advisory committee, a member of Torchbearers, the City of Akron's Holocaust Commemoration Committee and runs a Northeast Ohio focused blog, Tea Time With The Mad Artist. Bronlynn received a bachelor's in advertising from Kent State University with an emphasis on design, psychology and marketing.



Damon Williams • Philadelphia

Philadelphia Parks Alliance

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Damon Williams is Community Outreach Manager for Philadelphia Parks Alliance. He is a lifelong community advocate with an award-winning tenure as a community reporter for two major newspapers.



Ruby Zielinski • Memphis

Memphis River Parks Partnership

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Ruby is a visual storyteller who began honing her skills by completing a BFA at Memphis College of Art while simultaneously working at an award-winning design agency. She strengthened her focus on graphic design and design strategy with exposure to human-centered design early on in her career. She found an outlet for her commitment to creating social value through community development during her time with the Memphis Medical District Collaborative. Ruby has joined the Memphis River Parks Partnership as Design Director to create engaging experiences and materials that will bring the brand to life and connect people to the riverfront.



Maps

Hotel Area - Nearby Sites



Toronto Learning Journey - Citywide Site Visits



Tour Sites

Dufferin Grove Park • bit.ly/2kPllwP

Dufferin Grove Park is a 14.2-acre city-owned and -run park in a mixed-income neighborhood. The park features an outdoor wood fire oven, community gardens, a sandpit and wading pool, a multipurpose sports field and basketball court and an unparalleled sense of community and belonging. Local residents can host community campfires, and it's the only place in Toronto where you can buy city-baked bread at the organic farmer's market.

Scadding Court Community Centre • scaddingcourt.org

Scadding Court Community Centre is an organization known for high quality social and recreational programming in an immigrant-majority neighborhood, as well as for progressive community and social development activities that extend across the city. The center offers free programming with an average daily visitorship of 500. It serves as a business incubator for young entrepreneurs, offers urban agriculture programming, provides community kitchens, and much more. It is adjacent to Kensington Market.

Kensington Market • kensington-market.ca

Kensington Market is a walkable bohemian neighbourhood that draws artists and tourists to its indie shops, vintage boutiques and arts spaces. The Market is also home to a wide array of specialty grocers, bakeries and cheese shops. Hipsters frequent trendy bars, cafes and international restaurants that range from casual to fine dining. Students and families populate Victorian houses along tree-lined streets.

Regent Park • torontohousing.ca/regentpark

Regent Park, located near the east-end of Toronto, is a recent example of integrating mixed-income, mixed-use development in the city. The neighborhood has been in revitalization since 2009 and has since transformed into a community with subsidized and market-rate housing, townhouses and condominium buildings, a beautiful park, state-of-the-art aquatic center and new retail and offices uses.

401 Richmond • 401richmond.com/

401 Richmond is a historic warehouse in downtown Toronto and home to over 140 cultural producers and microenterprises. Originally the site of the Macdonald Manufacturing Company, a tin lithography factory at the turn of the 20th century, 401 Richmond is now a thriving arts and cultural hub.

Thorncliffe Park • tpwomenscomm.org

Previously a horse racetrack, Thorncliffe Park is one of Toronto's first high-rise neighborhoods that embodied the urban planning ideas of the postwar era – high concentrations of similar housing types, strict separation of retail and residential development, and the assumption that everyone has a car. Today, Thorncliffe Park has one of the most multicultural populations in the city. Thorncliffe Park Women's Committee is a grassroots group committed to creating and implementing public space enhancement projects in the neighborhood. Through stewardship and advocacy it has transformed R.V. Burgess Park into an award-winning park.

The Bentway • thebentway.ca

The Bentway is a 1.1-mile public trail and corridor space underneath the Gardiner Expressway that transforms the underutilized space into a new gathering place. A public-private collaboration, the initial phase knits together seven local neighborhoods with over 70,000 residents, providing access to important destinations in downtown Toronto. It will consist of 55 outdoor separate civic areas referred to as 'rooms', including a skate trail that opened last winter, and host year-round activities and events.

Fort York • fortyork.ca

Fort York houses Canada's largest collection of original War of 1812 buildings and the 1813 battle site. It is open year-round and offers tours, exhibits, period settings, and seasonal demonstrations. During the summer months, the site comes alive with the color and pageantry of the Fort York Guard.

Garrison Common • fortyorkfoundation.ca/garrison-commons

Garrison Common, is a 3.3 hectare park to the west of Fort York. The Common is a valuable remnant of Toronto's 18th century landscape – the original ground on which urban Toronto was founded in 1793. It became part of Fort York's field of fire defensive system, and this is where the final moments of the Battle of York (1813) occurred. This historic landscape is now being carefully rehabilitated.

Tour Sites

Fort York Library • torontopubliclibrary.ca/fortyork

Toronto Public Library is the busiest urban public library system in the world. Every year, millions of people visit 100 branches within the system. The Fort York Library is a 16,000-square-foot, highly transparent glass building oriented to yield unimpeded views to Fort York, the city and the lake. The vision for the branch is to be the social heart of the rapidly evolving neighbourhood, and features digital innovation hubs and DJing equipment, in addition to a collection of more than 35,000 books. It was opened in May 2014 by Toronto Public Library Board and KPMB Architects.

Sidewalk Toronto • sidewalktoronto.ca

Sidewalk Toronto is a joint effort by Waterfront Toronto and Alphabet's Sidewalk Labs to create a new kind of mixed-use, complete community on Toronto's Eastern Waterfront, beginning with the creation of Quayside. Sidewalk Toronto will combine forward-thinking urban design and new digital technology to create people-centered neighborhoods that achieve precedent-setting levels of sustainability, affordability, mobility, and economic opportunity.

Evergreen Brick Works • evergreen.ca/evergreen-brick-works

In the late 19th century, a young entrepreneur named William Taylor opened the Don Valley Brick Works, which produced bricks that built many landmarks in Toronto such as Massey Hall and Casa Loma. After more than 20 years since the factory's closure, Evergreen Brick Works opened in 2010 as Canada's first large-scale community environmental center. A demonstration hub where the world can experience sustainable practices that enable flourishing cities of the future. It connects citizens, business, academia and government to turn what-if's into how-to's that will shape our country for the better.

Future Cities Canada • futurecitiescanada.ca

Launched in May 2018, Future Cities Canada is a national cross-sector initiative with the mission to accelerate innovation to transform cities for the benefit of all. Led by four founding partners, Evergreen, McConnell Foundation, Community Foundations of Canada and Maison d'innovation sociale, and with a growing network of partners, Future Cities Canada collectively strives to address the challenges facing cities and city-dwellers to reimagine cities that are equitable, regenerative and prosperous.





Photo by: remundo

Co-hosts:

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